

REMARKS

Claims 1, 9, 12 and 13 are amended. Claims 1- 13 are pending. The amended claims are fully supported by the specification.

In the specification, paragraphs [1] and [38] have been amended

Paragraph [1] has been amended to state that Application No. 09/858,129, filed May 15, 2001, is now abandoned, and that the subject application also claims priority to International Application No. PCT/US01/08445, filed 10 March 2001.

Paragraph [38] has been amended to correct an editorial error regarding a reference number.

In amended Figure 2, the previously omitted element numeral 39 has been added.

Claims 1-13 remain in this application. Claims 1, 9, 12 and 13 have been amended.

The Examiner has acknowledged that claims 5-8 are allowed. Moreover, claims 4 and 11-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-3 and 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being fully met by Gray (U.S. Patent 5,545,379). According to the Examiner, the term 'juxtaposed', given its broadest reasonable interpretation, encompasses Gray's configuration wherein conductors are spaced from each other.

Upon the Examiner's recommendation, Applicants amended independent claims 1 and 9 to state that the bare conductors abut each other, thereby distinguishing the claims from the spaced conductor configuration taught by Gray. As rejected claims 2-3 depend from claim 1, and rejected claim 10 depends from claim 9, it is believed that these claims are now also allowable.

Claim 12 has been amended, changing the number of second conductors from "four or more" to "three or more". As claim 12 depends from allowable claim 11, claim 12 necessarily is also allowable.

Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. In particular, the Examiner stated that the limitation "said plurality of insulated conductors" was confusing and rendered the claims indefinite. Absent the indefinite nature of claim 13, the Examiner stated that this claim would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claim.

Claim 13 has been amended to correct the editorial error which yielded this claim indefinite. Specifically, "insulated conductors" has been corrected to "third conductors", thereby causing the claim to read with proper antecedent basis on intervening claim 11.

Each claim, as now presented, is believed novel and non-obvious over each of the cited references taken singular or in combination.

A petition to enlarge the period to respond by three months, to October 15, 2003, is provided along with the appropriate petition fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.17(a)(1).

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the newly submitted amended claims and the remarks addressing the Examiner's rejections successfully traverse the prior rejections given by the Examiner. For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims

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patentably distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Allowance of pending claims 1-13 is therefore respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions, or determine that any further action is necessary to place this Application into better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

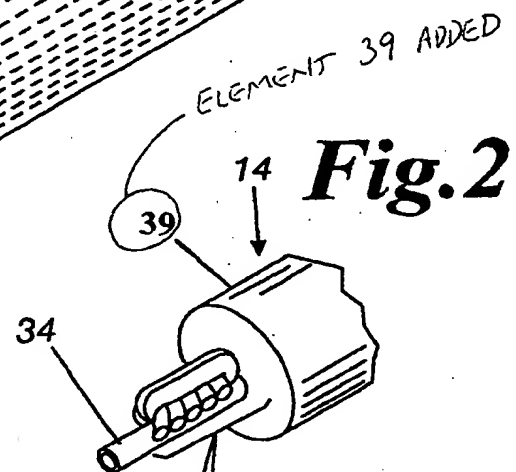
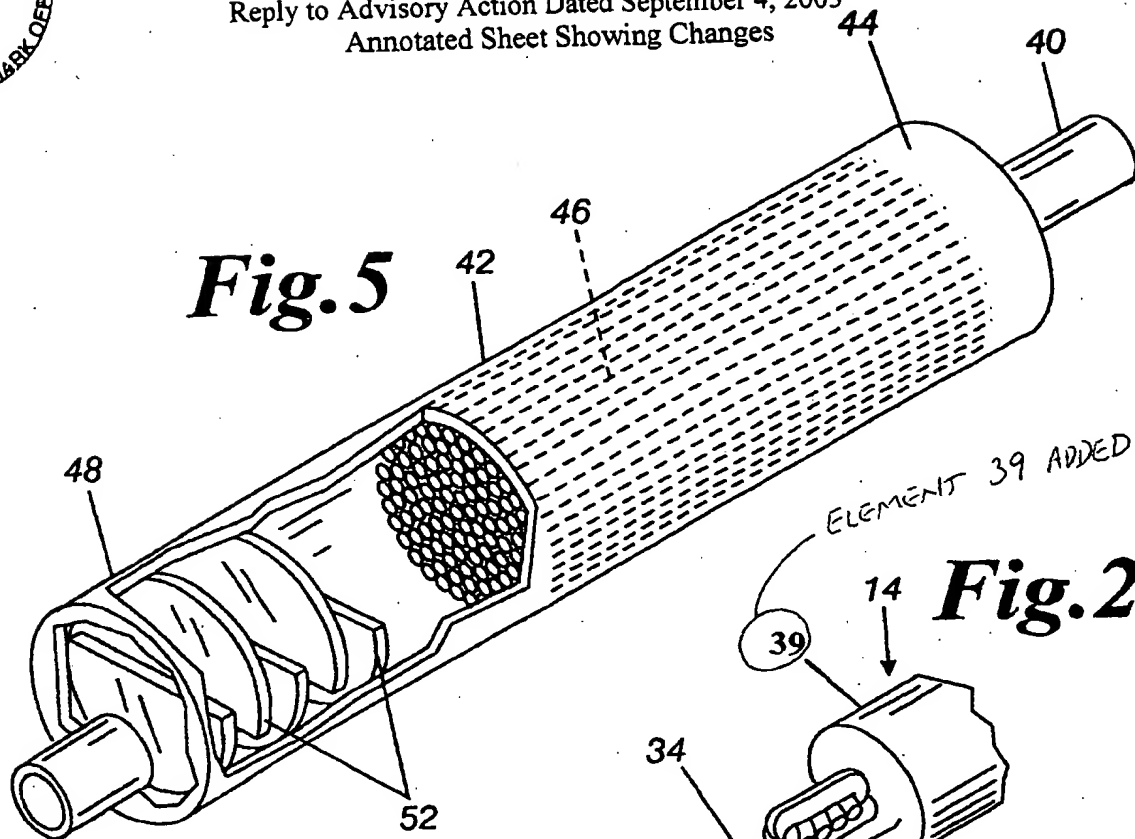


Fig. 2a

